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# FACT SHEET

## FINAL REGULATION TO REDUCE EMISSION OF HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FROM PHOSPHORIC ACID AND PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS INDUSTRIES

## TODAY'S ACTION...

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final regulation to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants from phosphoric acid manufacturing and phosphate fertilizers production. Hazardous air pollutants are also known as air toxics; these are pollutants which are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects such as birth defects or reproductive effects.

- Most of the output from phosphoric acid manufacturing is used in the production of phosphate-based fertilizers which are used for agricultural purposes, such as farming. In generating these fertilizers, a variety of toxic air pollutants can be released to the atmosphere. This regulation will help control these releases.

- EPA worked in partnership with major stakeholders, including state air pollution control agencies and industry representatives, in developing the final rule. The major stakeholders also commented on the proposed rule and the final rule incorporates changes resulting from public comments.

## WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- This action will reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants, primarily hydrogen fluoride, emitted from phosphoric acid manufacturing processes by approximately 345 tons annually, representing a 57 percent reduction from current levels.

- The rule will have the added benefit of reducing emissions of total fluorides, pollutants that are known to have adverse effects on the environment, including damage to vegetation. EPA's rule will yield a 1,035 tons per year reduction in total fluoride emissions.

- Additionally, this rule will also yield small reductions in emissions of heavy metals, including chromium and lead, as well as methyl isobutyl ketone.

## BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally referenced 189 pollutants, but EPA

has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactam from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as source categories) that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).

- EPA's published list of industry groups (known as "source categories") to be regulated includes major sources or facilities that manufacture phosphoric acid and produce phosphate fertilizers.

**WHAT DOES EPA'S RULE REQUIRE?**

- EPA's rule sets emissions limits for the following emissions points at affected sources or facilities: wet process phosphoric acid plants, superphosphoric acid plants, purified phosphoric acid plants, phosphate rock dryers, phosphate rock calciners, mono and diammonium phosphate fertilizer plants, and granular triple superphosphate fertilizer plants and storage buildings.

- Owners and operators also have to comply with the monitoring, record keeping and reporting requirements that are outlined in the rule.

**HOW DOES THE RULE PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO INDUSTRY?**

- The rule is structured to limit emissions across process lines that include several different emissions points for a given production unit. The rule establishes a single limit for each process line. This allows owner and operators the flexibility to arrange, operate, and control each line in the most efficient manner while at the same time achieving specific emission reductions.

- EPA worked closely with industry representatives in developing this rule. Because many facilities that will be subject to this rule have already installed stringent air pollution controls, it should not be difficult for these facilities to comply with the rule.

**WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE RULES**

- There are approximately 21 facilities nationwide that manufacture phosphoric acid and/or phosphate fertilizers that may be affected by this action. EPA estimates that up to five plants will need to install new control devices.

- Process lines for sources subject to the rules will be exempted from otherwise applicable, less stringent federal new source performance standards.

## HOW MUCH WILL THE RULE COST?

- EPA estimates the capital costs to comply with the rule to be $1.4 million for existing sources or facilities. EPA does not expect any new facilities to be constructed during the first five years of the regulation.

- EPA estimates the annual costs to comply with the rule to be about $860,000 for existing sources or facilities.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: *http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg* where it will be posted for the first six months after the rule is issued as final. On a permanent basis, more comprehensive information concerning the rule will be posted on the Unified Air Toxics Website (UATW): *http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/7_10yrstds.html*. For further information about the rule, contact Ken Durkee of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5425. Contact Mr. Terry Harrison of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541- 5233 for questions about test methods.

- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: *http://www.epa.gov/oar/*.